

# Comparisons of Job Characteristics

**Focus Occupation:** [Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators \(53-4021\)](#)

**Associated Occupation:** [Railroad Conductors and Yardmasters \(53-4031\)](#)

[Compare Knowledge](#)

[Compare Skills](#)

[Compare Abilities](#)

[Compare Detailed Work Activities](#)

[Compare Tools and Technologies](#)

<<	Focus occupation element is much lower
<	Focus occupation element is lower
0	Focus occupation element is at a similar level
>	Focus occupation element is at a higher level
>>	Focus occupation element is at a much higher level

## Knowledge

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 97

**Focus Occupation:** Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators (53-4021)

**Associated Occupation:** Railroad Conductors and Yardmasters (53-4031)

Associated Occupation's Key Knowledge Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Transportation	4.6	14.9	14.2	0	Current knowledge level may be sufficient
Public Safety and Security	6.9	10.1	10.4	0	Current knowledge level may be sufficient

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Skills

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 83

**Focus Occupation:** Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators (53-4021)

**Associated Occupation:** Railroad Conductors and Yardmasters (53-4031)

Associated Occupation's Key Skills Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Monitoring	9.9	12.0	9.1	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Complex Problem Solving	9.1	11.5	7.4	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Coordination	9.1	11.4	7.7	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Time Management	8.9	10.8	8.0	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Management of Personnel Resources	6.9	10.6	6.2	<<	Extensive development of skills in this area may be required
Operation Monitoring	6.6	10.3	9.6	0	Current skill level may be sufficient
Operation and Control	5.4	9.0	9.2	0	Current skill level may be sufficient
Quality Control Analysis	5.9	8.7	7.4	<	A higher skill level may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Abilities		Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 81			
Focus Occupation: Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators (53-4021) Associated Occupation: Railroad Conductors and Yardmasters (53-4031)					
Associated Occupation's Key Abilities Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation	
Far Vision	7.8	13.5	12.8	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Auditory Attention	5.9	11.8	10.5	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Reaction Time	4.8	11.2	10.1	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Depth Perception	5.3	10.1	8.5	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Response Orientation	4.0	8.9	8.1	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Glare Sensitivity	2.6	7.0	7.0	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Spatial Orientation	2.7	6.2	6.3	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Peripheral Vision	2.2	5.9	4.9	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Activities that Both Occupations Have in Common		Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 94
<b>Focus Occupation: Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators (53-4021)</b> <b>Associated Occupation: Railroad Conductors and Yardmasters (53-4031)</b>		
Work Activities	Exclusivity of Activity	
Answer customer or public inquiries	41	
Collect payment	49	
Inspect railroad equipment	89	
Monitor railroad vehicle or equipment operation	89	
Observe signal from other crewmembers	99	
Operate track switches	95	
Perform safety inspections in transportation setting	62	
Read switching order, train orders, or arrival or departure schedules	92	
Set flares, flags, lanterns or torpedoes during emergency stops	99	
Signal directions or warnings to coworkers	42	
Understand railroad signals	89	
Use two-way radio or mobile phone	42	
Watch for or relay traffic signals	99	

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily perform all of the listed activities. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the activity is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations engage in that activity.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Tools and Technologies that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus  
Occupation to Associated  
Occupation: n/a

**Focus Occupation: Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators (53-4021)**  
**Associated Occupation: Railroad Conductors and Yardmasters (53-4031)**

Tools and Technologies	Exclusivity
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Tools and technology data is unavailable for one or both occupations.	
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Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily use all of the listed tools and technologies. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the tool or technology is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations use that tool or technology.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.